

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method for treating a wound by removing a protease from the site of the wound, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) determining the ~~particular~~ protease that will be removed from the wound site;
- (b) selecting a protein-containing fibrous component capable of removing said ~~particular~~ the protease, wherein said protein-containing fibrous component consists essentially of protein fibers;
- (c) forming a wound dressing from said protein-containing fibrous component;
- (d) applying said wound dressing to a wound site so that said protein-containing fibrous component is in contact with the wound site and allowing at least a portion of said particular protease found at said the wound site to be attracted to and entrapped by said protein-containing fibrous component; and
- (e) removing said wound dressing from ~~said wound~~ the wound site so that at least a portion of said particular protease is removed from said the wound site.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~protein-containing fibrous component comprises~~ protein fibers are silk fibers.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~protein-containing fibrous component comprises~~ protein fibers are wool fibers.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said protein-containing fibrous component ~~comprises~~ is a protein-containing fabric.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The method of claim 4 wherein said protein-containing ~~fibrous component comprises~~ fabric is a silk gauze.

Claim 6 (canceled). ~~The method of claim 1 wherein said dressing is formed from a non-protein-containing material in addition to the protein-containing fibrous component.~~

Claim 7 (canceled). ~~The method of claim 6 wherein said non-protein-containing material comprises cotton fibers.~~

Claim 8 (canceled). ~~The method of claim 7 wherein said cotton fibers are interwoven with said protein-containing fibrous component.~~

Claim 9 (canceled). ~~The method of claim 8 wherein said protein-containing fibrous component comprises silk fibers.~~

Claim 10 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said particular protease comprises elastase.

Claim 11 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said particular protease comprises neutrophil elastase.

Claim 12 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said particular protease comprises gelatinase.

Claim 13 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said particular protease comprises gelatinase B (MMP-9).

Claim 14 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said particular protease comprises plasmin.

Claim 15 (currently amended). A method for treating a wound by removing a protease from the site of the wound, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) applying a wound dressing to ~~said~~ a wound site wherein said wound dressing comprises a protein-containing fibrous component capable of removing said protease, wherein the protein-containing fibrous component consists essentially of protein fibers and wherein said wound dressing is applied so that said protein-containing fibrous component is in contact with the wound site; and
- (b) allowing said wound dressing to withdraw and entrap said protease so that healing of ~~said~~ the wound is promoted.